



Towards better participation in Standardisation

## ETUC standardisation newsletter - June 2019

Dear colleagues and friends,

The ETUC is pleased to send you its newsletter on standardisation that will keep you regularly updated on the ETUC's activities in the field of standardisation. It will deliver information on European and international standardisation direct to your desktop. If you wish additional information and/or documents related to the news mentioned below, feel free to contact us at [standards@etuc.org](mailto:standards@etuc.org).

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### Adoption of the ETUC Action programme 2019-2023 and standardisation



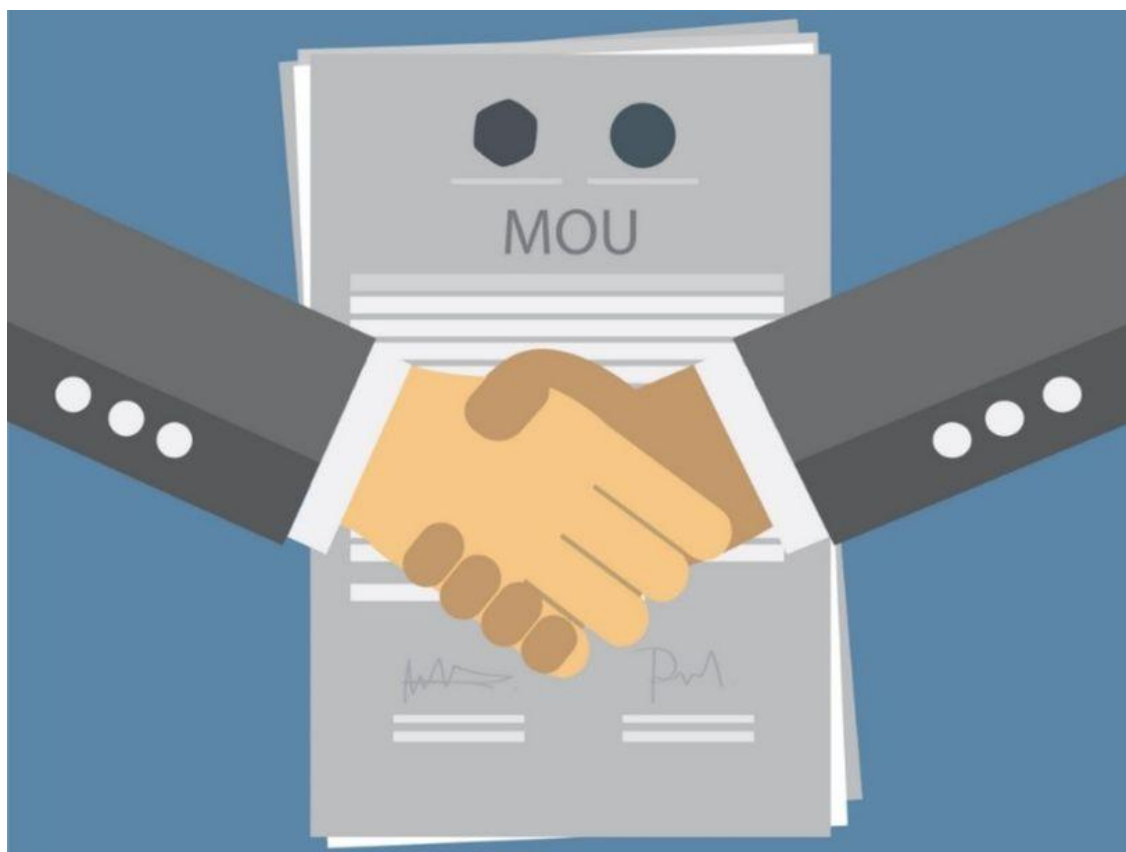
The ETUC Congress met from 21 to 24 May, in Vienna. It was hosted by ÖGB, the Austrian Federation of Trade Unions. More than 1.000 participants joined political leaders such as the Austrian President Alexander Van der Bellen, Portuguese Prime Minister Antonio Costa, European Commission president

Jean-Claude Juncker, and Nobel prize winner Joseph Stiglitz, who gave his perspective on the changing societal and social issues in Europe and in the world.

The Congress is ETUC's highest decision-making organ and meets every four years. It elected a new team to lead the ETUC for the next four years, and approved the ETUC Action Programme 2019-2023, which contains a chapter on standardisation. The chapter sets out the ETUC policy and actions regarding standardisation and incorporates previous ETUC resolutions on standardisation. The Action Programme 2019-2023 is available on demand at [standards@etuc.org](mailto:standards@etuc.org)

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## KAN and the ETUC Standardisation team discuss the elaboration of a Memorandum of Understanding



The ETUC Standardisation team, KAN representatives and invited guests met in Dresden on 11<sup>th</sup> June to discuss an enhanced approach on standardisation. Over the last 20 years, the standardisation landscape has changed considerably and continues to change, with national standards setting activities kept to a minimum in favour of European and International standards setting. In addition, the standard development process is increasingly extending to the

services field, and moving away from the European to the international level. As the ETUC follows the broader standard setting activities, it is envisaged to strengthen its collaboration with KAN in a memorandum of understanding. The ETUC Permanent Committee “Standardisation” will discuss and fine tune the details of this MoU at its next meeting on 17<sup>th</sup> October 2019, with as final objective to conclude the MoU by the end of 2019.

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## The German Trade Union IGBCE organises a seminar around standardisation

Workers’ councils are increasingly confronted with standards, especially in the framework of compliance activities. Therefore, the German trade union [IGBCE](#) organised a seminar about standardisation on 27th May in Cologne, to provide a greater insight on the standard setting activities. The discussion with the participants showed again that standardisation is an unknown territory for the majority of trade unionists, and that there is great interest in knowing more about the issues at stake. Namely, the practical examples of the “apps” used by the sharing economy drew much attention from participants. These apps contain modules which “optimise” the workload of the platform workers and use unknown algorithms. Similarly, more and more companies use software tools for personnel management and skill selection. These software tools will increasingly use algorithms and metrics, which are currently laid down in international standards.

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## Norwegian Trade Union LO-Norway organises an in-house event around standards



Norway is not a member of the EU. But it is associated with the EU through its membership in agreements in the European Economic Area (EEA). In Norway, the European Regulation on standardisation (EU/1025/2012) is also implemented as a national law. This EU regulation calls for a deeper involvement of societal (and social) stakeholders in standard setting activities. In line with the regulation, Standards Norway (SN) has opened its management structures and LO-Norway is participating in the SN Administrative Board. The ETUC and SN contributed to the LO-Norway in house event and explained the standard setting activities and why it is important for workers to be involved. For further details on the event or the related slides, contact Øyvind Rongevær ([Oyvind.Rongever@lo.no](mailto:Oyvind.Rongever@lo.no))

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## Ongoing Discussion with ETSI on "Inclusiveness" - slow progress



ETSI is the European organisation dealing with the standard settings of telecommunications, broadcasting and other electronic communications networks and services. Over the last year, ANEC, ECOS, ETUC and SBS (the so called “Annex III” organisations) have been in discussion with ETSI leadership over the “openness” of the ETSI standardisation processes. While ETSI claims that their processes were already fully open before the adoption of Regulation 1025/2012 on standardisation (and therefore no real action had to be taken), the Annex III organisations have a different view on this. Together with the “3SI Advocate” and the European Commission, discussions are taking place on the improvement of the ETSI New Work Item proposal template and on a separate commenting channel for draft European standards (currently, “Annex III” comments are blended in with national comments and so Annex III comments disappear into national positions and/or are not withheld).

Although quite some discussions have taken place at different levels, progress in these discussions has been slow so far. We anticipate that the next months will provide crucial clarity on the ETSI compliance with Regulation 1025/2012 on standardisation.

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## ETUC participates in the "High Level Conference on European Standardisation"



The “Joint Initiative on Standardisation” (JIS) was launched in 2015, coinciding with the Juncker Commission. The JIS signatories – including the ETUC - have agreed on a joint vision on standardisation, based on mutually agreed underlying principles. The JIS was composed of different actions, some of which the ETUC actively participated to.

After four years of working to shape the different actions and in the framework of the Romanian presidency, a High-Level conference on European standardisation took place in Bucharest on 7<sup>th</sup> June. The ETUC, represented by Peter Scherrer, former ETUC Deputy General Secretary, joined the first panel discussion, where he proposed the need to include standardisation in social dialogue, to raise awareness and build trust. In light of the recent adoption of the ETUC Action Programme (which includes standardisation), Peter Scherrer further provided a brief overview of how Trade Unions envisage standardisation, including its weaknesses and opportunities.

A second panel discussion had a challenging exchange on the future of standardisation, its internationalisation and its status in light of the recent judgement of the European Court of Justice and the related Commission communication on “Harmonized Standards”. The JIS activities are foreseen to continue under the forthcoming new Commission.

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## On-Line course on Standardisation is live



In October 2018, ANEC, ECOS and ETUC developed with CEN-CENELEC a free online course which aims to explain the complex world of standards in clear and simple terms. By now, more than 1000 people have taken the course. If you want to discover the world of standards, this training is for you! Follow our course and find out why standards are relevant to you, and how you can participate in developing standards that benefit all. The course can be found via the link: [www.standards4all.eu](http://www.standards4all.eu).

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## New ISO Standard on "Sharing economy" on its way



Peter Scherrer attended on behalf of the ETUC the 1st plenary meeting of the ISO/Technical Committee (TC) 324 "Sharing Economy", which took place on 13 and 14 June, in Tokyo. The ETUC, as well as the other Annex III organisations are invited to follow the work as liaised representative organisations (i.e. without voting rights).

The discussion focused mainly on the title and the scope of the ISO/TC 324. The title „Standardisation in the field of sharing economy“ was confirmed, with USA and China delegations strongly supporting this option. Regarding the scope, an extensive debate took place on whether non-profit organisation should be covered in the sharing economy, or if it should be limited to business platforms only.

The next ISO/TC 324 meeting is scheduled to take place in Toronto Canada, from 9 to 11 December. It is estimated that the standardisation work on the ISO/TC 324 will take in total 36 month.

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## ISO 45001 "Occupational health and safety management systems" - User survey 2019



To better understand who is using ISO 45001, user's experience, and how the standard could be amended and/or improved, ISO/TC 283 has developed a survey open, which was open until 1st July. The results will be analysed and presented at the next ISO/TC 283 plenary meeting in October.



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**Our mailing address is:** [standards@etuc.org](mailto:standards@etuc.org)

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